Waiting List for Telephones in Major Cities of Bihar

312. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons who are in the waiting list for telephones in major cities of Bihar as on 19th June, 1995; and

(b) what measures are proposed to be taken by Government to clear the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No. of persons in the waiting list for telephones in major cities of Bihar as on 30.6.95 are 13372 as detailed below:—

1. Patna	3112
2. Muzafferpur	812
3. Jamshedpur	5244
4. Gaya	1188
5. Ranchi	441
6. Dhanbad	972
7. Bhagalpur	1603
Total:	13372

(b) It is proposed to provide 69300 new telephone connections during 1995-96 in Bihar Circle including the major cities mentioned in reply to Part (a) against waiting list of 27999 for the State as a whole only, as on 30.6.95.

As per the National Telecom Policy 1994 the target of providing telephone connections on demand all over the country is to be reached by 1997 and investment from private sector is to supplement the efforts of Department of Telecom in achieving this target. The development plans are being made accordingly by the Department.

Joint Ventures to set up food processing units in Gujarat

313. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently signed any agreements with NRIs for setting up food processing industries in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of joint ventures set up or are to be set up in the State of Gujarat during 1994-95 and 1995-96 District-wise;

(d) whether the entry of multinational companies in this sector will help in improving the Indian economy;

(e) whether any study has been made in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c) This Ministry has not signed any agreements with NRIs for setting up food processing units in the State of Gujarat. However, the details of joint-venture proposals, involving NRI investment, approved by the Government in the State of Gujarat during 1994-95 and 1995-96 are annexed (*see* below).

(d) to (f) The entry of multinationals in the food processing sector is expected to help in better utilisation of the agricultural produce, generate employment, expand market, increase value addition and help exports. No specific study has, however, been made in this regard by this Ministry.